

Weare Open Space Committee

Minutes April 22, 2008

Attendance: Steve Najjar, Andrea Alderman, Pat Myers, George Mallette, Ian McSweeney

Minutes of the March 25, 2008 OSC meeting: Andrea made motion to accept the minutes as amended, George 2nd. All in favor.

Update on Hawkes/Wilson project: Scot Dickman and Scott Heath are not available to do the appraisal. Steve received the name of Marsha Beecy from Margaret Watkins. Steve will contact her for a proposal. The project is on hold until an appraiser can be found. Mildred Hall Trust Advisory Committee would like to see an appraisal before making decisions on whether they can contribute funds. Currently we have enough for 70 acres plus Rod Wilson's 80 acres, we may be short on the stewardship contribution. Steve met with BOS and they have no issues with the project. Steve reported that Margaret Watkins will be leaving PLC at the end of May and she recommends that PLC continue to support the project. Ian said that the board is still supportive.

Landowner letters: There was discussion over the possibility of sending out another letter to landowners. George said it would be helpful to find out how many lots are approved so we know how much money may be coming to us if the market picks up. Also, now that the market is down, more people may be interested in conserving their land. Pat brought up the idea of a targeted mailing. Steve mentioned that having GIS would help us to target the letter to appropriate landowners.

Consolidation of lands: There was discussion over the possibility of consolidating current town ownerships under single easements. Steve said this discussion would benefit from the GIS data as well.

Other ideas for continuing the work of the WOSC when funding is limited included improving the record-keeping process, focusing on the transfer of development rights issue, public presentations of the NRI, and easement language. Steve expressed concern that the committee would become a worksession of the conservation commission and would like to see the WOSC remain focused on land protection

projects and related activities. The group decided to keep meeting on a monthly basis until such time as the group agrees monthly meetings are no longer necessary.

George made motion to adjourn at 7:49. Andrea 2nd and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Alderman